

Miss Emma Degner and I came to Iran in October, 1937, Miss Degner going to Meshed to take over the school which had been started by an American nurse one year before, and I came to Shiraz to open a new school. At present there are four Government nursing schools, in Teheran, Tabriz, Meshed and Shiraz. The directors of the schools are all carefully carrying out the same curriculum, thereby having standard teaching in these schools.

Students admitted to the nursing schools must hold the ninth class certificate of the girls' middle school, be unmarried and of good moral character. The preliminary period is three months, at the end of which time they are admitted into the schools or rejected if thought unsuitable for nursing. The student nurses wear a standard uniform of blue wash dress, white collars and cuffs, white bib and apron and white cap.

Classes in theory are conducted from September to June. Lectures on anatomy and physiology, medical diseases, surgical conditions, communicable diseases, bacteriology and obstetrics are given by physicians who have graduated from accredited schools of medicine. Lectures on principles of nursing care, history of nursing, nursing ethics, personal hygiene, *materia medica*, nursing in medical diseases, nursing in communicable diseases, nursing in surgical conditions, obstetrical nursing, dietetics and English are given by the directors of the schools. In Tabriz and Teheran the nursing students receive practical experience in the American mission hospitals; in Meshed in the Shah Reza Hospital, the beautiful new shrine hospital; and in Shiraz this work is done in the English mission hospital. This practical experience is carried on throughout the whole year and covers experience in all the special departments, medical wards, surgical wards, operating room, out-patient department and obstetrical division.

No tuition is charged the student nurses, their only expense being their uniforms (part of which is provided by the Department of Education) and their notebooks. They are given one month's vacation each year and they work on an eight-hour day basis, six days each week. The eight-hour day includes class work and experience in the hospital. At the end of the two-year course a government examination is held, at which time successful candidates are given a licence to practise as licensed, graduate nurses. In September, 1938, the first nurses graduated from the Government Schools of Nursing in Teheran, Tabriz and Meshed. The Shiraz school was not started until 1937, and the first class graduated in June, 1939. The directors of these schools aim at the formation of *alumnæ* associations, a National Organisation of Iranian Nurses, and lastly membership in the International Council of Nurses. Word has just been received that an *alumnæ* association in Teheran has already been formed.

The Government nursing schools are financed by the Department of Education, and indeed we are extremely grateful to this Department for their foresight in starting these schools, for so long as they are under this Department the primary aim of the schools will be the education of young women for the nursing profession. Iran in these three short years has accomplished results in the education of nurses that many countries have taken years to accomplish.

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PATIENTS TREATED UNDERGROUND.

Emergency Surgeries.

Deep beneath the level of Gray's Inn-road from 120 to 150 patients are being treated daily in the emergency surgeries and operating theatre of the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital.

Following conferences at the Ministry of Health it was decided that, despite the evacuation of other hospitals, the hospital should remain open for the use of the civilian population.

"THE GOOD NURSE."

The following most interesting review of "The Good Nurse," contributed by a correspondent appeared in *The Times* on September 8th. It is priceless as a glimpse of past nursing conditions, and we venture to place it on record for the benefit of busy nurses who have little time in these stirring days to enjoy a daily paper.

THE GOOD NURSE.

HER PORTRAIT 110 YEARS AGO.

From a Correspondent.

More than 110 years ago, when Florence Nightingale was a child of eight, there was published a work entitled "The Good Nurse."

In the dedication to "Mrs. Elizabeth Fry by her very sincere and affectionate friend the authoress" the anonymous writer mentions "the many valuable hints with which you have favoured me and which I know from our long intimacy to be the result of your experience in the sick chamber." An engraving entitled "The Portrait of the Good Nurse," showing a lady of mature years and benign aspect, forms a frontispiece. Then follow "Recommendatory Letters" from various gentlemen, among them one William Lister, a near relation probably of Joseph Lister, the famous father of a yet more famous son. Mr. Lister states that "sick people and their friends will be greatly in your debt," and believes that "the Profession also will be much indebted to you, for the practitioner cannot fail to be excited and improved by acting under the inspection of wiser and more enlightened persons."

In the course of 48 chapters the writer does not once even hint that anything save information such as she gives, coupled with kindness of heart, is needed for the making of a good nurse.

Let us for a moment (she writes) contrast this sympathy and tenderness with that of the unfeeling and cruel conduct of the petulant cold-hearted being, whose very countenance chills the beholder. Miserable indeed are the sick and infirm placed under her care; they shrink from her touch like the sensitive plant, while their disorder preys upon their vitals with redoubled force. Such conduct has no doubt hurried many to the grave, and created much painful disappointment to the most distinguished practitioners of physic, whose abilities and time have been devoted in vain to the recovery of their patients; for alas! their utmost efforts have been foiled, and every energy totally defeated, for want of co-operation on the part of the attendant in the sick and lying-in chamber.

Under the heading "Personal Qualifications" we read:—

The sense of vocation which has inspired generations of nurses was formerly considered to be in itself an equipment for nursing. Under modern conditions, while a sense of responsibility, a real interest in the problems of sick people, and a desire for direct personal service are still needed, the humanitarian qualities of a nurse must be reinforced by training based on scientific study.

The authoress hints at the personal qualities and outward exterior deemed desirable in a nurse.

A woman with a healthy, cheerful countenance, with sound teeth, but not too lusty, is the desirable exterior, when her general character indicates a mild and amiable disposition. These qualities, when joined with strict principle, constitute all that can be desired in the woman

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